

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 890 - SB 1065

March 30, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Health to establish rules governing criteria for pregnant women to be tested for alcohol and drugs to encourage them to seek immediate treatment for an alcohol-related or drug-related problem. The Commissioner of Health must submit the rules to the House Health and Human Resources Committee and the Senate General Welfare Committee for review and comment. Requires all health care practitioners who attend to a pregnant woman who tested positive for alcohol or drugs and refuses to seek treatment or misses at least two appointments to report the woman to the Department of Children's Services.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant

Increase Federal Expenditures – Not Significant

Assumptions:

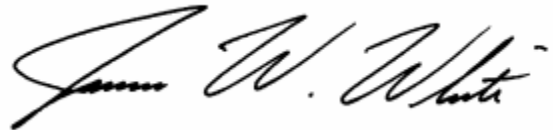
- The Department of Health would develop rules governing the provisions of the proposed legislation. Any cost to develop the rules and submit those rules to the General Assembly will not be significant.
- According to the Department of Health, the current licensed and regulated laboratories throughout the state have established approved testing procedures. These laboratories will be used so as not to require the state laboratory to create a new testing program for alcohol and drugs.
- The Department would not be required to set up a billing system because these laboratories and private health care providers already have systems in place to bill either clients or third party payers for laboratory testing.
- There will not be a significant impact on the number of pregnant enrollees or type of prenatal care enrollees of the TennCare program or CoverKids program receive. Any cost can be accommodated within existing resources without an increased appropriation or reduced reversion.

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- The Department of Children's Services will determine the manner in which health care providers report certain pregnant women and the proper course of action. Any cost incurred due to increased reporting can be accommodated within existing resources without an increased appropriation or reduced reversion.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/kml